

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, FOR THE BENEFIT OF FARMERS AND MECHANICS, AT QUINCY HALL, SOUTH MARKET STREET, WM. BUCKMINSTER, OF FRAMINGHAM, EDITOR.

VOL. 8.

BOSTON, SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 19, 1849.

PUBLISHED BY

W. & W. J. BUCKMINSTER.

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12. Papers not discontinued without a personal or written notice from the subscriber or postmaster, and owners' names.

13. All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor at Boston.

14. Advertising on reasonable terms.

AGRICULTURE.

PLANTING.

It is now the 19th of May and it is high time that the main crops were planted. Corn should all be in the ground this week, but if any time has passed let not the business be longer delayed. We must expect large crops of corn when the planting is not completed near this time.

As to modes of planting we have not much more to say this year, for we hope there are but few fields remaining unplanted. As the season is cold and some kinds of weeds sprang up sooner than the ground even, it is prudent to pass a brush harrow over the field just before the corn comes up. The way the weeds in the hills are crushed, and much finger work is saved at the first hoeing.

Potatoes sometimes yield well when planted much later than this, but generally they succeed best when they are planted as early as the middle of May. Faster seems to increase the potato crop in smalls. It is noted for its attraction of moisture in the plants.

15. **CURIOSITY.**—Dr. Bennett, of Plymouth has sent us a curiosity in the shape of a butterfly coin. It seems the worm has escaped and left an acorn and a kernel of corn in its deserted tenement. It may be that some squirrel put the corn and acorn there for safe keeping—knowing that a worm in a cocoon shell would not incline to live upon the food.

CORRESPONDENCE

[For the Ploughman.]

GRAPES, PLUMS, AND GOOSEBERRIES.

MR. EDITOR.—"Ask ye shall receive?" says the good book. I wish to ask you a few questions and suppose ye shall receive answers. A good scholar, I suppose, would be able to answer them.

Can grape vines be budded or grafted? If so, when is the proper time?

In relation to Plum stocks, which is the best method to bud or graft?

How ought Gooseberry vines to be treated in order to be successful with them?

Yours respectfully, A. G. N.

Rutland, May, 1849.

16. **Grape vines are grafted at the root—but as the grape is propagated by the cuttings without a root it is not necessary to insert grafts. A good scholar, I suppose, would be able to answer these questions.**

Plum stocks may be grafted in the spring or bud-ed in August.

The ground around gooseberry bushes should be kept in tillage. If the grass is permitted to form a tight award the bushes will not flourish.

Now of the 55 simple substances, the inorganic world may be divided, **vegetables** are principles, made up of **air, fire, carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, and nitrogen.** Besides these elementary substances, plants contain a number of which the vegetable tissues are regarded as essentially consisting, almost all vegetable substances contain some mineral ingredients, the presence of which is necessary to their healthful existence. These, as before observed, consist of potash, soda, lime, magnesia, together with small quantities of sulphur, phosphorus, and oxide of iron. Before entering however upon these inquiries, we shall obtain a better understanding of the subject before us from a short account of a few of the more important elementary substances that play a conspicuous part in the vegetable economy. Commencing with carbon, we will give a brief description of some of the most interesting properties, together with the sources from which they are made available by plants. This simple substance is extensively diffused throughout nature, and is nearly identical with charcoal, which is the carbon of wood, mixed with a small quantity of mineral salts. It is this substance that constitutes the framework of the whole vegetable kingdom, and forms the basis of the soil, basis of plants, from the most delicate flower to the stately oak of the forest; to this they owe their strength and solidity, and in proportion as we find them deficient in carbon do we find them wanting in firmness and durability. Carbon enters also into most animal substances, and is a component part of sugar, wax, gums, oils, &c. in combination with iron it forms steel which is a carbure of iron. But it does not appear that carbon in its simple form is capable of being assimilated by plants, and made a part of their structure, but only when it is combined with oxygen, which it seems to do in the form of carbonic acid, or gas (that is carbon united with oxygen.) This gas is commonly known as **fixed air** and is frequently found in mines, caves, the bottom of wells, cellars, &c. It is constantly generated by the decay of vegetable matter, by combustion, and the respiration of animals which is not regarded as a species of slow combustion. It is from the soil and water that plants obtain carbonic acid, and this is the case in the first stages of its growth; as, in the case of the leaves are developed, as in the case of the roots, and the plant begins to draw its carbon from the air.

It is not agreeable to Republican principles to permit any one to make a law for the community, or to set one aside.

We assume that the Governor and Council, who reviewed the whole case could judge better than children could whether there were any special circumstances to take Goode's case out of the general rule. Children who can hardly write their names should not be appealed to for judgment in such cases. We censured this appeal to children.

17. **GOOSEBERRIES.**—In our view there is not much to be set soon after planting in the spring. It is essential that a clump of earth be taken up with the roots. The trees will not, nor one in a hundred, when they are taken up without earth around the roots, as apple trees.

Long roots are not needed, but the roots that are saved with the evergreen tree must not be left.

In taking up trees from the forest it is best to cut such as are used to the sun, for if they have been in the shade they will not stand a chance in the open country. And as a seed is wanted to keep some earth on the roots, the open woods are the best resort for trees of this kind.

It grows around them, the soil is easily kept in the roots.

It is hardly worth while to select large trees for grafting. Five or six feet in height is enough.—The grafts are much more likely to live, and the labor of transplanting is comparatively light. A graft that is sharp, and that will cut the root is the best to use.

It ought to be stated that there are sandy loams in the country that seem not to be benefited by grafting. It is quite an easy matter for any farmer to try a bushel on his various lots of land. Generally the hilly grounds in Worcester county are much improved by it. More totally disappears where plants are.

18. **SETTING EVERGREEN TREES.**—Our readers are reminded that this class of trees may be set soon after planting in the spring.

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19. **WHITE PINE TREES.**—In our view there is not much to be set soon after planting in the spring. It is essential that a clump of earth be taken up with the roots. The trees will not, nor one in a hundred, when they are taken up without earth around the roots, as apple trees.

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20. **MENDING HIGHWAYS.**—As soon as planting is over it is customary in Massachusetts to call out the inhabitants in the vicinity to mend the roads. This work should be done, if possible, in May, for the roads have a long time to settle down and become hard than when the work is done later. Indeed one dollar expended in May is worth two dollars in October. It is true that the best of gravel may be carried on to the roads at almost any time even late in the fall; but the work cannot be had; and when common wisdom is used it makes the roads worse than before and we lose our labor.

21. **REMARKS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**—In our view there were the most important, adding very pointedly, for the peace until they are over.

22. **ABOUT STARING FOR NEW SPONGE.**—Punch, in his sly, defines a comprehensive article that will "take over."

23. **WHAT HE TOOK FOR A BAD HANDBKERCHIEF.**—He improvement, as Dobby said, a dose of salts.

24. **ONE OLD ROAD.**—Gravel should be put in all cases when it can be prepared. A little exertion to find where a road will be successful in most cases.—Surveys of highways are not accustomed to look for gravel. It is not so easily dug up as loose sand, and of course less show will be made than when gravel is dug. The practice of ploughing two or three furrows of muck on each side of the road and hauling it into the middle is a vicious

one, and ought not to be countenanced.

The middle of a road need not be raised very high when the right material is made use of.

25. **GRASL.**—Gravel is ploughed much easier in spring than in summer, and this is an additional argument in favor of working in May. Hard banks of gravel ought properly to be ploughed as soon as the frost is out of the ground. Almost any bed may be then turned up with a plough and a single yoke of oxen. Then it may be easily ploughed again.

26. **ONE, AND OUGHT NOT TO BE COUNTENANCED.**—The middle of a road need not be raised very high when the right material is made use of.

27. **PAPERS NOT DISCONTINUED.**—Papers not discontinued without a personal or written notice from the subscriber or postmaster, and owners' names.

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MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 19, 1849.

William Buckingham, Editor.

EMIGRANTS TO CALIFORNIA.

Vast numbers of emigrants from different parts of the United States have chosen to take the land route through the State of Missouri; and companies are daily straying at points in the western parts of that State and waiting there for the right time of the year to take up their line of march. That time is year to the latter part of May, after the grass has grown that is counted on to feed the animals in the caravan.

It seems that no less than twenty five thousand people have already arrived and are cantoned in that State. Most of the companies ascend the Missouri river and arrived at Independence, whence they scattered themselves to the different villages that could shelter them; but great numbers have found no other shelter than what their tents afford.

One of the companies left Boston in March and expected to make an easy passage across the continent, but their progress has been arrested, and six weeks ago the company have returned to this city, fully convinced that the journey cannot be pursued with safety. Mr. Robert C. Nichols of Roxbury was one of these, and from his account may be learned of the prospects of those who are now on the western border of the State of Missouri.

It seems from his report that 25,000 have already arrived at Independence and are waiting there, or in the villages beyond, for the grass to grow, and numbers more are daily arriving—that three-fourths of those who are waiting to undertake a journey of 2000 miles through a wilderness almost destitute of food have left their homes without making any inquiry as to the provision which should be made beforehand for so long a journey, and that their equipments are generally very inadequate.

It has been supposed by many that the numbers traveling this way would make the route more safe than if only one or two companies were going; but as the grass on the way is much depended on to feed the teams it is clear that the more numerous the caravans the more danger there will be of starvation.

The fruit trees are so backward that they are in little danger from late frosts. They are about ten days later than last year. We may therefore calculate with good probability upon a fair crop of all the common fruits except peaches.—[Worcester Spy.]

FROM SAN FRANCISCO. The New Orleans Picayune of May 8th publishes letters from San Francisco under date of March 2d and 7th, from which we glean the following facts:

I have been on shore but a short time, and am entirely surprised with everything I see.

Our supplies are all made up, and exceeds anything I ever witnessed in Mississippi in the palmy days of '26 and '7.

There are two or three firms who monopolize the business of the place, whose original equipment was selling their goods by retail to the natives, and taking their pay in tallow and hides—the former shipped to the United States, and the latter to Valparaiso. And these took up the road to the Blackstone Hotel, where we partook of a collation particularly gratifying to our appetites. Blackstone and the many villages in the region about are very fast advancing in manufactures. Within an area of two miles on every point, there is a population of 12,000 inhabitants, and by extending to five miles, we see as many spindles as we can find in Lowell.

As Lowell, there is, however, an opportunity to increase the water power to three times its present amount.

Four of the French steamers returned to

Toulon from Civita Vecchia on the 28th, when

preparations were immediately made to embark another detachment of 5000 infantry, 2 batteries of artillery, and several squadrons, which it was expected would sail for Italy on the 2d instant.

This movement might lead to the supposition that Gen. Oudinot expected resistance at Rome.

However that may be, it is stated that the General would not wait for reinforcement to march, a column of 6000 men having already been directed towards that city.

The news of the arrival of the French has created a sensation at Rome, where it was said Gen. Avizzi had got 20,000 men under arms to repel this outburst.

There are also several other companies whose names have not yet been ascertained.

The fire originated by accident in the woodhouse of the American Hotel.

APPOINTMENTS. The following appointments to office have been officially announced.

Department of the Interior.

George Lunt of Mass., to Attorney of the

United States for the District of Massachusetts, Robert Rantoul, Jr. removed.

Charles Devens, Jr., of Mass. to be Marshal of the United States for the District of Massachusetts, O. P. Brown, removed.

Thomas H. Kent, of Md., to be Marshal of the United States for the District of Maryland, and James H. Kent, as heretofore published.

Post Office Department.

W. V. Brady, New York.

Wm. Hayden, Boston, Mass.

Lewis Benedict, Albany, N. Y.

Matthew Merrill, Charlestown, Mass.

Wm. Brewster, Taunton, Mass.

Luther P. Blodget, Burlington, Vt.

REVIEW OF THE MARKETS.

SAFES.—The market is well supplied with both descriptions; sales of Pots at \$40, and Pearls at per lb. each.

COAL.—An import of 2400 casks London, for

smith's use, has been sold at \$8 per cask, and a cargo to arrive at \$7.50 per cask, 4 mos.

Vermont and Mass. RR, 45¢ per lb. per cask.

Harriet RR, 45¢ per lb. per cask.

Boston and Maine RR, 45¢ per lb. per cask.

Boston and Worcester RR, 45¢ per lb. per cask.

Boston and Lowell RR, 45¢ per lb. per cask.

Boston and Lynn RR, 45¢ per lb. per cask.

Boston and Gloucester RR, 45¢ per lb. per cask.

Boston and W. RR, 45¢ per lb. per cask.

Boston and F. RR, 45¢ per lb. per cask.

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THE POET'S CORNER.

THE COMING OF SPRING.

CHILD.

I know that the Spring-time is coming again!
I hear the reed-pipe in the distant plain,
And a flutter of wings in the chestnut trees,
And I know that the flowers are doting the leaf!

MOTHER.

The robin has come
From her far-away home
To sing a sweet song for thee;
And to build a round nest
For her little red breast.

In the fork of the old root tree.

The beautiful Springtime is coming indeed,
But the flowers are not yet adoring the mead.

CHILD.

I know that the flowers have come; and I know
That the brooklets sing where the violet grows.
We will go to the woods and the primrose dell,
We will hunt in the copse for the primrose.

MOTHER.

Dear child of my love!
So like a young dove
With those beautiful, beaming eyes;
In thy innocent youth
Thou know'st not the truth.

That smiles are oft tears in disguise.

Though bright seems the landscape, and gentle the breeze,
Old Winter still licks in the meadows and trees.

CHILD.

I know 'tis the Spring-light that peeps o'er the hill—
How pleasant it lies on the threshold still!
I know that the birds and breezes sing
Of the beautiful flowers and the coming of Spring.

MOTHER.

The breeze in the meadow
And the birds, are indeed
The sweet bairnies of spring;
And a sweet strain
Has the Spring's bright train.

Then the birds or breezes bring.

'Tis the promise proclaiming, through mountain and dale,
That seed-time and harvest still never fail.

[Evening Post.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

Liberating the Madmen.

The following interesting sketch of the first trial made by the French philosopher and philanthropist, Pinel, to overturn by moral force alone, is from an account written by his son.

It was in the latter end of 1792, that Pinel, who had been appointed some time before, medical superintendent of the Bicêtre (the Madhouse of Paris) urgently applied for permission from the authorities to abolish the use of the iron chains which the lunatics were then loaded. Unsuccessful, he resolved to gain his object, he repeated his complaint with redoubled ardor before the Commune of Paris, and demanded the reform of this barbarous system.

"Citizen," replied one of the members of the Commune, "you will pay us and Bicêtre will. But who to tell you if you deceive us, and are concealing the enemies of the people amongst your madmen?"

The member of the Commune who spoke thus

had, it is believed, been arrested at the

sight so that he had come to Paris. Deprived of the use of his legs, he was always carried about on men's shoulders; and thus mounted and deformed her, with a soft and feminine voice, pronounced sentences of death; for death was the only laugh at that moment. Couched to see and personally to question the lunatics one after another. He was conducted to the quarter of the madmen, and all his questions were but one and another, and he addressed, and heard nothing amidst the confused cries and hoarseness but the chilling clang of the chains reverberating through the dismally dirty and damp vaults. Soon fatigued by his inquiries, Couloin turned round to Pinel, and said, "Ah! citizens, are not you yourself mad to think of inhumanizing such animals?"

"Citizen," replied the other, "I am convinced that these lunatics have become so unnatural, that they are deprived of air and liberty, and I venture to hope, a great deal from a thoroughly different method."

"Well, then, do what you like with them; I give them up to you. But if you will fail a victim to your presumption."

Now master of his actions, Pinel commanded the next day his enterprise, the real difficulties of which he had never for a moment disguised from himself. He contemplated liberating about fifty ravaging madmen without danger to the more peaceful, and decided to weaken them, before he made a first experiment. The only precaution he judged necessary to adopt, was to prepare an equal number of masts—those made of stout timber, with long sleeves, and fastened at the back, by means of which it was easy to prevent a lunatic doing serious mischief.

The first whom Pinel addressed was the oldest in this scene of misery. He was an English captain; his history was unknown; and he had been confined there for forty years. He was considered the most ferocious of all. His keepers were afraid to approach him, and that in a language unknown to them, he was to be occupied, for a fit of violence he had struck one of them with his chains, and killed him on the spot. He was more harshly treated than the others, and this severity and complete abandonment only tended still more to exasperate his naturally violent temper.

Pinel entered his cell alone, and addressed him easily. "Captain," said he, "if I take of you, and give you liberty to walk up and down the yard, will you promise me to be reasonable?"

"I will promise you; but you are making game of me. They are all too much afraid of me, even you yourself."

"No, indeed, I am not afraid," replied Pinel; "for I have six men outside to make you respect me; but believe my word; confide in me, and be done. I intend to liberate you; if you will put this in your waistcoat in place of your heavy chains."

The captain willingly agreed to all they required of him, only shushing his followers, and never uttering a word. In a few minutes his irons were completely loosened, and the doctor and his assistants retired, leaving the door of his cell open.

Presently he stood up, but sank down again. He had been in a sitting posture for such a length of time, that he had almost lost the use of his limbs. However, at the end of a quarter of an hour, he succeeded in regaining his equilibrium; and from the depth of his exhaustion, and utter desolation, towards the door. His first movement was to look up at the heavens, and to cry out in ecstasy. "How beautiful! How delightful!" In the evening he returned to his cell, slept tranquilly on a good bed which had been provided for him in the meantime, and during the following two years which he spent at the Bicêtre, he never again had a violent fit; he was made himself useful, exercising a certain power over the other lunatics, governing them after his fashion, establishing himself as a kind of superintendent.

His neighbor in captivity was not less worthy of pity. He was an old French officer, who had been in chains for the past thirty years, having been a prisoner of war, and one of those terrible religions monomaniacs of which we even now-a-days see such frequent examples. Of weak understanding and lively imagination, he conceived himself destined by God for the baptism of blood—that is to say, to kill his fellow-creatures, in order to

save them from hell, and to send them straight to heaven, there to enjoy the felicity of the blessed! This horrible idea was the cause of his committing a frightful crime. He commenced his homicidal mission by plunging a dagger into the heart of his own child. He was declared insane, confined for life in the Bicêtre, and had been afflicted for years with this revolting malady. Calmness at length returned, but without reason; he sat on a stone silent and immovable, regarding the spot of his former crime. His limbs were still confined with the same iron as when first he was confined, but which he had no longer strength to lift. His case was hopeless. Dr. Pinel had his carried to a bed in the infirmary; his legs, however, were so stiff and contracted, that all attempts to bend them failed; in this state he lived a few months, and then died, without any trace of his release.

Pinel presented a strong contrast. He was a man in the prime of life, with sparkling eyes, his bearing haughty, and gesture dramatic. In his youth, he had been a literary character. He was gentle, witty, and had a brilliant imagination. He composed romances, full of love, expressed in impassioned language. He wrote unceasingly, and in order to devote himself to greater end to his forwarding, he gave up his office, and by losing his place in his room, often passed the day without food, and the night without sleep. To complete all, an unfortunate passion added to his excitement; he fell in love with the daughter of one of his neighbors. She however, soon grew tired of the young author, was inconsistent to him, and did not even allow him the consolation of a doubt. During a whole year, the anguish of the poor dreamer was more bound from concealing itself, than from his own mind, he was a picture of despair, and passing from one extreme to the other, gave himself up to every kind of excess. His reason fled, and he remained confined for twelve years in the dark cell where Pinel found him flinging about his chains with violence. The madman was more turbulent than dangerous, and, incapable of understanding the good intended to him, it was necessary to employ force to lead him to the infirmary. He fell himself into his, he commenced running round and round the courtyard, until his breath failing, he fell down quite exhausted. This excitement continued for some weeks, but unaccompanied by violence, as formerly. The kindness shown to him by the doctor and the special interest he took in this invalid, soon restored him to reason. Unfortunately, he was permitted to leave the asylum and return to the world, then in such a state of derangement, he joined the political factions of the day. He was soon a leader in the cause of revolution, and was elected to the National Assembly. He was a member of the Committee of Public Safety, and was one of the most prominent men in the revolution.

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